

Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Let Your Kingdom Come"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

When Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, He responded, "When you pray, say, 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come...'" (Luke 11:2). We know the rest. Jesus answered by giving them The Lord's Prayer. It's a familiar prayer that has been used by Christians pretty much from the time Jesus taught it to His disciples.

But what exactly are we praying when we say, "Your kingdom come"? Luther responds in two ways. First, Luther says, God's kingdom came when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to redeem the world. From the time of Adam and Eve, sin has infected the world. It's the cause of all wars, all crimes, all jealousies, all diseases, and, of course, death. These bad results of sin are evidence of the reign of Satan in the world. When Jesus came, He set about the task of pushing back Satan's reign. Therefore, He healed diseases, drove out demons, and even raised the dead.

These acts of Jesus were evidence of God's kingdom coming to earth.

On the cross, however, it appeared that God's kingdom had failed. Dying on a cross was the one who had been reversing Satan's course. It seemed that in the end, Satan would prevail. On the third day, however, Jesus rose from

the dead victorious over sin, death, and Satan. God's kingdom had prevailed after all. Now Jesus offers the same victory to all who would believe in Him, which brings us to Luther's second response to the petition, "Your kingdom come".

According to Luther, God's kingdom comes

when He sends us His Holy Spirit. That happens in a couple of ways. First, God's Holy Spirit comes when we hear the word of God. Holy Scripture tells us of God's mighty acts of salvation, and in particular tells us of the love He has for us in Jesus Christ. Through God's word we come to faith in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit also comes in baptism. St. Peter says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit operates through baptism to bring saving faith to the baptized. This is a great act of God by which we come into His kingdom.

In the end, the kingdom of God is nothing less than salvation in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Through Jesus we have the kingdom of God.



Moments to Treasure

Are there simple things that we take for granted in our lives? Do we overlook the fact that the ordinary activities throughout our day can delight and mean the most to us? Consider Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Watch for the moments to treasure; give thanks for the simple things. Rejoice with God at your house of worship this week!

Sunday Luke 15.1-10	Monday Luke 15.11-32	Tuesday John 8.1-20	Wednesday John 10.1-21	Thursday John 10.22-42	Friday Philemon Psalm 103	Saturday
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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